

- Manufacturing shipments up in July
- Inflation rate rises to 2.0%, boosted by higher prices for most commodities
- Room revenues have been weak throughout 2004

The Economy

- **British Columbia Manufacturers reported increased shipments (+1.2%) in July, after a dip in June (-0.6%), marking the sixth increase in seven months.** Driving the growth was the shipments of durable goods (+2.7%), which advanced throughout the year. Wood shipments continued to climb—increasing 3.0% in July. Ongoing demand for wood products remains strong. The value of residential building permits issued in British Columbia was up 46.8% in the first seven months of the year compared with the same period last year. Machinery shipments led the increase in durable goods by jumping 27.1% in July.

Shipments of total non-durable goods continued to slip in July, off 0.9%. Paper manufacturers reported a 4.0% slump in shipments, which played a key role in the decline of non-durable shipments. Food manufacturing (-0.8%), the second largest component in non-durable goods, also shipped fewer products. Chemicals (+3.9%) and plastics & rubber (+6.6%) manufacturing were the only industries to see gains in shipments in July.

Across the nation, the value of manufactured goods shipped continued to climb to a record high of \$50.2 billion, up 0.5% from June. Quebec (+1.4%), Alberta (+1.3%) and Saskatchewan (+3.1%) led the way, reporting solid gains in shipments in July.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Prices

- **The consumer price index for British Columbia rose 2.0% in August compared to August 2003.** Education (+20.4%) was the main factor behind this increase. Tuition fees for BC students jumped 26.2% since August 2003. The price of energy (+5.7%), especially gasoline

(+6.8%) also advanced significantly. When energy prices are removed, the CPI showed a gain of 1.8% over the same period. The prices of alcoholic beverages & tobacco increased 4.5%, while non-alcoholic beverages (-7.7%) were sold at much lower prices than the same month last year. Transportation costs (+2.9%), which are also directly affected by gasoline prices, rose substantially. Durable goods became cheaper (-2.0%) over the past year, mainly due to a decline in the prices of household appliances.

The Canada-wide consumer price index increased 1.9% in August compared to the same month of 2003. Energy prices led the growth of the CPI, rising 6.2%. With energy prices excluded, the Canadian CPI grew 1.2%. The Atlantic provinces experienced higher-than-average price increases over the year as PEI (+2.6%) and Newfoundland (+2.4%) both saw steep increases. Victoria's index (+2.3%) rose slightly more than the rest of the province.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

New Motor Vehicle Sales

- **July 2004 sales of new motor vehicles in British Columbia¹ inched up 0.7% to 15,238 units (seasonally adjusted).** All provinces except Nova Scotia (-7.8%) and Manitoba (-3.4%) registered increases in monthly motor vehicle sales. The largest gains were concentrated in the Atlantic provinces. Newfoundland and Labrador (+6.3%) rebounded following a steep decline in June. New Brunswick (+6.0%) was followed by Prince Edward Island (+5.3%). Among the other provinces, Ontario, Alberta

¹ Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut

Did you know...
750,000 cups of tea are served annually at the Empress Hotel

and Saskatchewan registered gains above the national average (+2.3%).

Nationally, Sales of both cars (+2.7%) and trucks (+1.8%) increased in July. Consumers turned more towards North American-built passenger cars (+5.0%), while sales of overseas-built passenger cars fell (-3.0%) for a third consecutive month.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Tourism

- **Room revenues in British Columbia slipped in May (-1.0%, seasonally adjusted) after expanding 3.6% in April.** Room revenues have been weak throughout 2004, increasing only once since last December. Thompson-Okanagan (+1.6%, seasonally adjusted) was the only region where room revenues were up in May. This reflected the solid performance of hotels and motels in the region. Five of the eight development regions in BC saw room revenues decline, with particularly large downturns recorded in Northeast (-18.9%) and Nechako (-7.9%).

Province-wide, revenues were up at hotels (+1.1%), especially at the larger establishments. Hotels with 151-250 rooms posted the greatest gains (+3.2%, seasonally adjusted) in May. Overall, smaller hotels (1-75 rooms, -0.3%) and motels (-0.2%) inched down marginally. Other accommodation types (including bed and breakfasts, work camps and other types of short-term accommodation) plunged 8.4% after a significant rebound (+15.8%) in April.

Data Source: BC Stats

Public Libraries

- **Population served by British Columbia public libraries in 2003 added up to 4.1 million, about 98.2% of total population of the province (2002 estimate).** While only one new service point opened in 2003, total hours of services across the province were extended by 5%, compared with 2002.

*Data Source: Ministry of Community,
Aboriginal and Woman's Services*

The Nation

- **Labour productivity in the Canadian business sector climbed (+0.1%) in the second quarter.** Output gained 1.2% while hours worked grew

1.1%. After posting a strong 1.1% gain in the first quarter of 2003, productivity has been virtually flat for five consecutive quarters. Overall, labour productivity in the business sector rose a modest 0.4% last year, substantially lower than productivity improvements in previous years.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Composite Index

- **The Canadian leading indicator advanced 0.5% in August, after slight downward-revised gains of 0.6% in July and 0.9% in May and June.** Growth remained widespread, however, with 8 of the 10 components rising. The composite index combines indicators from manufacturing, retail, housing and the stock market. The housing index slowed for a second straight month, from 2.9% growth in June to 1.2% in July and 0.4% in August. The retail sector saw growth in August as furniture and appliance (+0.4%) and other durable goods (+1.0%) sales continued to expand. The negative influences on the composite index were declines in S&P/TSX stock price index (-0.5%) and average workweek in manufacturing (-0.3%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Large Retailers

- **Following several months of slight gains, sales jumped 1.8% to \$7.81 billion in July.** After rebounding strongly from a weak December, large retailers have seen increases in six of the past seven months. In 2003, growth in sales was steady between April and November, after having been more volatile in late 2002 and early 2003.

In July, seven of the eight major commodity groups posted increases for the group of large retailers. The strongest growth was seen in sporting and leisure goods, and clothing, footwear and accessory sales. The only exception to the upward movement was a slight decrease in the sales of other goods and services.

Source: Statistics Canada

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Contact: Dan Schrier (250) 387-0376

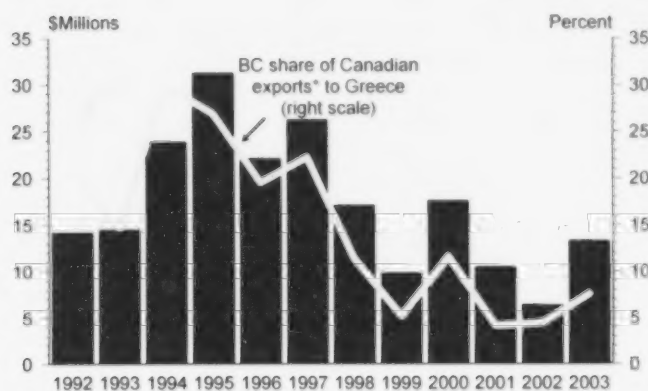
Originally published in *Exports*, Issue 04-06. Annual Subscription \$60 +GST

Canada's Trade with Greece

All eyes are on Greece as that country hosts the Olympic games, but for Canadian exporters and importers it has far less importance. In 2003, two-way trade (exports plus imports) between Canada and Greece amounted to only \$299 million, which amounts to less than one-tenth of one percent of total Canadian trade in goods. British Columbia was the source of only 7.5% of domestic commodity exports to Greece with less than \$13.3 million worth of merchandise shipped from BC to the Olympics' host country in 2003. The province's share of Canadian exports has fallen from a peak of 29.9% in 1994, but even in that year BC exports to Greece amounted to less than \$24 million. In 2003, Greece ranked 43rd in the world as a destination for BC commodity exports.

Greece is not a significant trade partner for Canada

BC exports relatively few goods to Greece



* Excluding re-exports

BC's share of Canadian exports of goods to Greece has been falling over the last decade

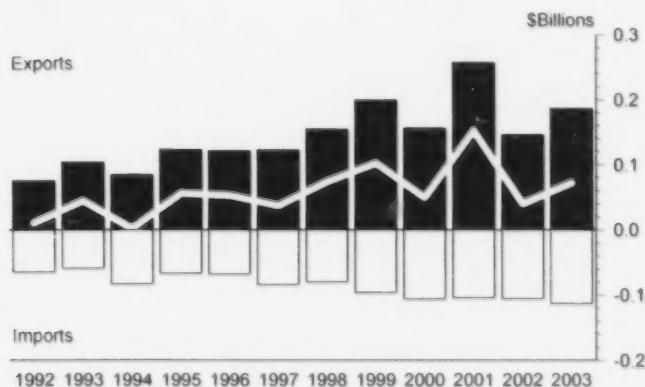
The top Canadian export to Greece in 2003 was wheat. Canada shipped about \$68 million worth of wheat to Greece, or 39% of total goods exported to that country. For British Columbia, pulp was the top export, representing 64% of all shipments from the province to Greece. The only other significant commodity exports from BC to Greece were agricultural and food products (13%) and machinery and equipment (12%).

In terms of imports, olives were the main component of about a fifth (21%) of goods entering Canada from Greece, whether in the form of olive oil, fresh or preserved olives.

2003 Exports to Greece —Selected Commodities—

	BC (\$,000)	% of Total	Canada (\$,000)	% of Total	BC Percent of Canadian Exports
SOLID WOOD PRODUCTS	259.5	2%	2,538.8	1%	10%
Softwood Lumber	198.0	1%	237.6	5%	83%
Panel Products	23.7	0%	218.5	13%	11%
Selected Value Added Wood Products	37.8	0%	642.8	0%	6%
Other Solid Wood Products	0.0	0%	1,439.9	13%	0%
PULP & PAPER PRODUCTS	8,770.3	66%	23,388.6	13%	37%
Pulp	8,428.2	64%	9,401.0	5%	90%
Newsprint	0.0	0%	12,354.0	7%	0%
Paper, Paperboard, Exc. Newsprint	342.0	3%	1,368.6	1%	25%
Other Pulp & Paper Products	0.0	0%	265.0	0%	0%
AGRICULTURE & FOOD (including FISH)	1,710.6	13%	83,967.3	48%	2%
Vegetables	13.2	0%	7,794.4	4%	0%
Other Agriculture & Non-Fish Food	606.1	5%	72,157.5	41%	1%
Fish Products	1,091.3	8%	4,015.4	2%	27%
METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS	0.0	0%	218.3	0%	0%
ENERGY PRODUCTS	0.0	0%	352.5	0%	0%
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	1,604.3	12%	28,842.1	16%	6%
Motor Vehicles & Parts	80.3	1%	8,606.2	5%	1%
Electrical & Electronic / Communications	139.1	1%	5,560.1	3%	3%
Other Machinery & Equipment	1,384.9	10%	14,675.8	8%	9%
PLASTICS & ARTICLES OF PLASTIC	160.6	1%	1,881.4	1%	9%
APPAREL & ACCESSORIES	6.6	0%	244.2	0%	3%
OTHER BC EXPORT COMMODITIES	744.3	6%	34,293.3	20%	2%
GRAND TOTAL	13,256.1	100%	175,726.5	100%	8%

Canada has a commodity trade surplus with Greece...

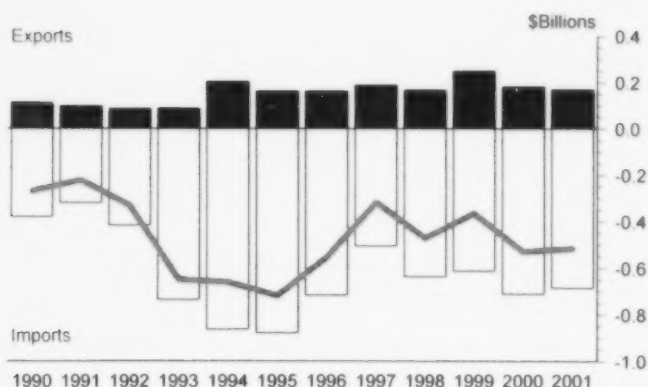


Canada has generally had a commodity trade surplus with Greece

Note: Exports include re-exports

Canada generally exports more goods to Greece than it imports. In 2003, Canada had a commodity trade surplus of about \$72.3 million with Greece. However, Canada is in a deficit situation in terms of trade in services. In 2001, the last year for which data on trade in services is available, Canada's service trade deficit stood at \$517 million as Canada exported only \$167 million in services from Greece, but imported \$684 million. With the Olympics situated in Greece, the services trade deficit will probably increase even further as tourists flock to the region.

...but has a deficit in trade in services



Canada imports far more services from Greece than it exports

Although Greece is currently not a significant trading partner with Canada, its membership in the European Union may help bolster two-way trade in the future as Canada negotiates further trade agreements with the EU. The recent expansion of the EU to 25 members (from 15) has emphasized the importance of maintaining a good trading relationship with that economic region and the Canadian government is working on developing closer ties with the EU.¹ Perhaps trade with Greece will increase as a result.

¹ See the article "Expanded European Union Could be Both Good and Bad for BC" in the March 2004 issue of *Exports* for more information.



Statistics Canada's Workshops

Census Workshop — Kelowna

The Census of Population is the most comprehensive source of data on the demographic, social and economic characteristics of Canadians. This introductory workshop is designed to acquaint new users with the wealth of information from this resource. The instructor will guide the class through the types of data available, their geographic organization, and the wide range of publications, electronic products, and services based on the Census. For more information call Don Meakins 604-666-9342, or e-mail don.meakins@statcan.ca.

Workshop Topics

Census Overview

- ☐ Background to the Census
- ☐ Content of the 2001 Census
- ☐ How Census data can be used
- ☐ Products and Services

Census Variables

- ☐ Income, ethno-cultural, language, immigration, labour force, etc.

Census Universes

- ☐ Population, families, households, dwellings

Census Geographies

- ☐ Census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations, census subdivisions, census tracts, block-faces, etc.

Date & Location

Tuesday September 21, 2004

8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Prestige Inn
1675 Abbott St.
Kelowna

Coffee will be served at 8:15am 

Fees

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Early Bird Rate: \$175 + GST (\$187.25)

(register before Sept. 7th):

Regular Fee: \$200 + GST (\$214)

Ask about in-house options!

Cancellation Policy:

The workshop fee will be refunded (subject to a \$75 administration charge) if intention to cancel is received in writing at least 3 business days before the first day of the workshop.

Return form with payment to:

Workshop Registrar — Statistics Canada, #600-300 W. Georgia St., Vancouver, BC V6B 6C7

Tel: (604) 666-1851 Fax to: (604) 666-6966

Census Workshop — Kelowna — September 21 04

Name: _____ Title: _____

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Statistics Canada's Survey Skills Workshops

Understanding & Interpreting Data

This is an intermediate level statistical theory course that covers the fundamental aspects of data analysis. The course provides an overview of basic types of research as well as analytical requirements. This is followed by a short treatment of survey methodology and types of data. Some of the analytical techniques that will be covered in this course include cross tabulations, chi-square, ANOVA and some aspects of linear regression. The course includes a review of analytical software packages and a discussion of principles for presenting results.

Workshop Topics

- Types of research and analytical requirements
- Survey design and sampling methods
- Types of data
- Grouping data
- Reliability and validity
- Weighting
- Estimation
- Confidence intervals
- Hypothesis testing

Return form with payment to:

Workshop Registrar — Tel: (604) 666-1851

Fax to: (604) 666-6966 Mail to: Statistics Canada, 600-300 W. Georgia St., Vancouver BC V6B 6C7

Dates & Locations

Prince George - October 7 & 8, 2004

Ramada Hotel, 444 George St.

Vancouver - January 24 & 25, 2005

600 - 300 West Georgia St., Library Square

Kelowna - March 7 & 8, 2005

Ramada Hotel, 2170 Harvey Ave.

Time: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Continental breakfast will be served at 8:15 am. 

Fees

Early Bird Rate: \$499.00 + GST
(register 2 weeks before start of workshop)

Regular Fee: \$550.00 + GST

Refund Policy - Registrations are guaranteed once payment is received. Fees will be refunded (less a \$75 administration charge) if intention to cancel is received in writing at least 3 business days before the start of the workshop. Substitutions are permitted with prior notice.

Understanding & Interpreting Data — Prince George - Vancouver - Kelowna (Circle one)

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Organization: _____ Address: _____

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Email: _____

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Demographic Trends in Canada

Statistics Canada

**1 Day Conference
Vancouver, BC**

Tuesday, October 26, 2004 - Four Seasons Hotel, 791 West Georgia St. Vancouver BC V6C 2T4
Ideal for Managers, Business Owners, Planners and Policy Developers in the fields of market research, human resources, financial planning, healthcare, education, academic research, strategic planning.

Agenda

- 7:30 - 9:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 - 9:15 Welcome
- 9:15 - 10:15 Dr. Doug Norris
- 10:15 - 10:45 Break
- 10:45 - 11:40 David Baxter
- 11:40 - 12:00 Question and Answer
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (provided)
- 1:00 - 2:30 Social Panel / Question & Answer
- 2:30 - 3:00 Break
- 3:00 - 4:30 Economic Panel / Question & Answer
- 4:30 Wrap Up / Adjourn

www.demographictrends.ca
for more details

Guest Speakers

- Dr. Doug Norris - Director General, Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada
- David Baxter - Executive Director, Urban Futures Institute

Panel Members

- Social Panel - Dr. Gloria Gutman, Doug Sabourin, Dr. Charles Ungerleider
- Economic Panel - Kevin Evans, John Winter, Dr. Donna Palmer

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Early Bird Rate: \$225 + GST (before Sept. 28) - \$240.75
Regular Fee: \$275 + GST (after Sept. 28) - \$294.25

REGISTRATION

Name: _____
Mr/Ms/Mrs/Dr: _____ Title: _____
Organization: _____
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☐ Visa ☐ M/C ☐ Amex ☐ Cheque Amount (incl GST): _____
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Registrations are guaranteed once payment is received. Fees will be refunded, less a \$100 administrative charge, if written notice is received by September 28, 2004. No refund will be given for cancellations after that date. Substitutions are permitted.

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Statistics Canada
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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		
	Apr 1/04	% change on one year ago
BC	4,177.4	1.0
Canada	31,825.4	0.9
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	2003	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	142,418	5.1
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)	130,914	2.2
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)	31,572	1.4
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)	19,495	-0.4
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		
		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jul	3,595	1.2
Merchandise Exports - Jul	2,820	0.4
Retail Sales - Jun	3,914	0.5
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
(all items - 1992=100)	Aug '04	12-month avg % change
BC	123.3	1.8
Canada	124.8	1.7
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Aug '04	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,239	-0.3
Employed - BC	2,067	-0.7
Unemployed - BC	172	5.4
		Jul '04
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	7.7	7.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.2	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)		
	Sep 15/04	Sep 17/03
Prime Business Rate	4.00	4.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.80	4.55
- 5 year	6.45	6.40
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		
	Sep 15/04	Sep 17/03
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$	1.2988	1.3661
US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)	0.7709	0.7324
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Aug '04	% change on one year ago
BC	690.10	0.4
Canada	682.29	2.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics
 Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics } Canada
 For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Released this week by BC STATS

- Labour Force Statistics, August 2004
- Consumer Price Index, August 2004

Next week

- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 2nd Quarter 2004

